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Talking Points for ADDI Appearance Before HPSCI**South Korea**

President Chun continues to display apparent flexibility on the constitutional reform question. No longer resisting demands to amend the constitution before his term ends in early 1988, he now appears intent on putting the government out front on the issue.

- Insiders believe a presidential commission on constitutional reform will quickly focus on the parliamentary system Chun apparently prefers.
- Talks on the formation of a separate legislative committee on constitutional revision are to be the focal point of a special National Assembly session that opened last Friday and continues until 24 June.

The government's efforts to accelerate resolution of the constitutional issue has forced the New Korea Democratic Party to redesign its strategy.

- Kim Young Sam has moved closer to opposition moderates. Kim and party president Lee Min Woo still call for direct presidential elections--the NKDP's official position--but now appear willing to compromise.
- Kim Dae Jung, however, remains adamant about direct elections. He is also pressing the opposition's demand of amnesty for jailed dissidents as a precondition to forming the committee on constitutional revision.

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Radical fringe elements have complicated the opposition's efforts to organize a united front on the constitutional reform issue, at the same time playing into the hands of the government.

- NKDP leaders are sensitive to the backlash against recent violence, but are also concerned about alienating dissident students and workers.
- Although some radical student leaders now consider the anti-American campaign a mistake, attacks on US-related facilities by splinter groups continue, including the brief takeover of the US consulate in Pusan on 21 May and an attempted raid Sunday on the Embassy in Seoul.

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It remains to be seen whether President Chun can balance apparent flexibility toward the political opposition with stiff measures aimed at neutralizing radical elements.

- Several ruling party moderates have told Embassy officials they believe President Chun and his closest associates are unwilling to share power and will stop short of changes that could loosen their grip on the presidential succession.
- Chun may move aggressively if the opposition appears to be getting the upper hand in the constitutional debate or if negotiations collapse and the opposition takes its campaign back into the streets.

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